



Commission on Volunteerism  
and Community Service

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## **Quarterly Commission Meeting**

June 1, 2017

1pm – 4pm

### **Location**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
1 Natural Resources Way  
Public Health Emergency Operations Center  
Springfield, IL 62702

### **Call-In Option**

Dial: 888-494-4032; Access Code: 4037150212#

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Commissioners Present (Springfield)**

*Jeff Turnbull, Giraldo Rosales, and Jane Angelis*

#### **Commissioners Present (Chicago)**

*John Hosteny; Anne Schuman; Laura Davis; Nisan Chavkin; Barbara Tubekis*

#### **Commissioners Present (Call-In)**

*Jennifer Phillips; Steve Silberman; Julian Brown; Debra Marton; Beth Ford*

#### **Guests Present**

*None*

#### **Staff Present**

*Scott McFarland, Executive Director; Mike Esper; Mike Stehlin; Michelle Hanneken; Kelia Beck*

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**Call to order was made by Chair Turnbull at 1:17pm.**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

-Chavkin made a motion to amend the minutes for the commission meeting on April 25, 2016, New Business page 3 from “Ad-Hoc” committee to “task force”

-Amendment agreed to by voice vote

- Approval of minutes was postponed until next commission meeting.

#### **Executive Director’s Report – Scott McFarland**

McFarland thanked everyone for coming, and expressed the importance of this meeting, stating that this would be the largest and increase to the portfolio the commission has seen.

#### **Staffing**

-Mattias took on another position, no longer with the commission. His position has been posted.

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- Also working to fill the other program officer position. Informed all of the budget issues that could possibly delay hiring.
- VGF grant is being submitted to offer the availability for volunteer support position.
- Liam finished his internship and two new interns have been selected to begin in August.

Chair Turnbull asked if there were any questions.

- Schuman asked if the short staffing will affect Governor's Home Town Awards start this year.
- McFarland stated short staff will not have an impact as Michelle has it under control and ready to go, which will be discussed later.

### **Budget**

- Congress disagrees on the Zeroing out of AmeriCorps. Commission has seen an increase in admin funding.
- Will remain covered for fiscal year 17. Programs continue through December 2018
- President's budget zeroed out program in fiscal year 18. Congress doesn't intend to approve budget, should be ok in 2018, there may be a decrease in spending, but will not know for sure until next year.
- Commissioner involvement in policy push for funding is important.
- Angelis asked if new programs were aware of the funding possibly ending.
- McFarland stated not at this time, will be notified after funding decision made.

### **VGF-Hanneken**

- Trying a new direction for the application for funding of VGF. Instead of strictly sub-grant approach, applying to hire a new staff person who will assess current model and make evaluations on changes and ways to strengthen volunteer management network in the state. The grant will cover the staff person and their travel for the first year and then possible sub-grants to organizations based on staff person's assessment.
- Tubekis asked for clarification of the goal of the VGF, and what would be funded with the grant.
- Hanneken clarified that it would fund a staff person to implement a plan to sub-grant fund to continue work that has been done through a thorough assessment of volunteer management model.
- McFarland- clarified that the three year grant will use the first year to discover where the model is currently at, and how to strengthen its organizations. Within year 2-3 the money can then be sub-granted to meet the changes needed to strengthen the volunteer management model.
- Commissioners discussed the validity of the Volunteer Management Network and its relativity to the VGF, and various other volunteerism efforts led by the commission. Discussion led to an agreement that there needs to be more effort put into building partnerships in order to strengthen the VMN model, which is how the VGF if granted will come into place.
- Chair Turnbull called for questions
- Marton asked for clarification on when the application is due, commissioners then discussed possible avenues of giving feedback to help make the application successful.

### **Commission Appointments**

- McFarland, we still need commissioners. A letter has gone out to the Governor's office from Jeff. Met with Matt McCabe who is willing to pass a letter to the people needed in order to bring attention to this matter.

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- Monitoring is set for June 26-29 from CNCS. Plan to inform program officer of need for commissioners, and request a letter be sent out from them to Governor about compliance.
- Commission then discussed the monitoring visit from CNCS. McFarland informed all commissioners are welcome to attend site visits to programs.
- Chair Turnbull plans to meet during the site visits on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June in the Chicago area, invited commissioners to join in order to show support for letter needed from CNCS to Governor's office. Requested conference call be available during CNCS exit interview.

### **CNCS Report – John Hosteny**

- June 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for AmeriCorps Affiliate, which is young part time AmeriCorps Members who receive a small education award. Triton College has been awarded an AmeriCorps affiliate funding.
- VGF deadline July 6<sup>th</sup>, 3.8 million available with 100,000 being the minimum awarded.
- One RSVP program is relinquishing grant. The local program cannot meet match, and will close on June 30.
- Commissioners discussed the value of this program to the area, and asked if there would be another program that could apply for funding. Hosteny explained it is too late for submissions at this time. All discussed the options of the program being re-opened in the future.
- Chair Turnbull expressed his sentiments to the loss of funding, and asked for further questions.

### **Staff Reports- Scott McFarland**

- AmeriCorps- Best Competitive year ever. Last year had eight competitive programs at 3.9 million. This year sixteen competitive programs at 6.5 million, a 63% increase. Two programs never been funded were picked up. Included City of Peoria and college possible. Discussed Red Cross being picked up competitive and including Disaster Corps, but will still train other members from other programs. Discussed having first municipality model, and Operation being funded for third, fourth, and fifth year.
- Chair Turnbull called for questions.
  - Hosteny congratulates McFarland on more responsibility and opportunity with funding.
  - Commissioners discussed all previously competitive programs being picked up. Seven sent up for competitive were not funded by CNCS, but does not mean should not be funded by the commission.
  - Schuman begins discussion on accuracy of scoring done by peer review. McFarland explains CNCS picks their peer reviewers, commission staff recruits their own peer reviewers, this year reviewers were harsher than previous years.
  - Chair Turnbull suggests moving ahead to new business to further discuss the funding of AmeriCorps programs. Ask for rejections, none given.

### **New Business**

AmeriCorps Formula Funding for 2017-18 Program Year

- McFarland presented an overview of the peer review process. Noted the scoring rubric is available on basecamp.
- Teach For America (TFA) was competitively funded, but at zero dollars. Discussed TFA's program, and their request to reject competitive funding and be funded by formula at \$94,000.
- Discussed Illinois budget impacting program budget in Illinois, and if not picked up with formula may still reject the competitive funding and could possibly lose TFA as a program.

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-McFarland presented four funding options based on the formula allotment given to Illinois (see handout)

-Option 1 was discussed, noting the exclusion of AUSL from funding due to multiple issues throughout the last program year. Discussion also included the handling of left over funds to be given to programs as a minimal increase for branding. Discussed branding issues amongst various programs. Commissioners felt programs should compete for branding funding, and have performance measures included with it.

-Commissioners discussed concerns for AUSL, and if they had the ability to come back as a program. McFarland noted the program does not follow several of the grant requirements.

-Commissioners then discussed pros and cons of funding and not funding TFA for the state

-Discussion that number of programs with option 1 would include forty-one programs.

-McFarland moved on to discuss overview of option 2 of funding.

-gave overview of option 3 of funding.

-Overview of option 4 of funding.

-Rosales requested a repeat of options, McFarland re-listed overviews.

-Commissioners discussed program score of YMCA, how there program is run, and what can be done to help make them stronger.

-Commissioners discussed using left over funds to help strengthen programs.

-Commissioners discussed the reasons some programs were not given funding, and how new grant requirements would make it difficult to fund them.

-Ford made a motion to adopt option 3.

-Nissan simultaneously made a motion to adopt option 2.

-Discussion to settle first motion on the floor was made with Chair Turnbull asking for a second on motion to adopt option 3.

-Rosales asks for clarification on leave no veteran behind not being a program that was recently in a scandal. Discussion was had amongst all that Leave no Veteran behind was not involved in a scandal.

-Chair Turnbull requests clarification on who second motion to adopt option3.

-Rosales seconds motion.

-Chavkin speaks against motion, believes TFA can survive without funding from formula.

Believes other programs could use more funding, that TFA could stand on its own.

-Discussion of what to do with remaining balance of funds if TFA not funded, and the impact that could have on the schools utilizing TFA.

-Clarification on which commissioners are voting members was made.

-Chair clarifies that a motion to approve option #3 is on the floor.

-Rosales, Marton, Turnbull, Brown, Tubekis, Ford, Witzel, Vote aye.

-McFarland thanks commissioners for their decision, and notes that this adds a 16% increase that will fill every focus area.

-A discussion on whether this is the best option was made, concluding it would be the best option for the commission.

-Rosales made a motion to use reaming funds for branding promotion to programs. Clarification was made by chair that the motion would be to use any remaining funds to be used as sub grants to programs for branding and recruiting efforts.



- Ford second the motion.
- Discussion was made about why funds wouldn't be used for grant writing.
- Motion was made by Tubekis to amend the first motion for remaining funds to include ability to use funds for grant writing education by grantees.
- McFarland suggested informing programs of funds, having them tell commission what they needed, and negotiating with each program. Unobligated money could then be sub granted based of recommendation of executive committee with no special language.
- Turnbull suggests voting on the motion as is.
- McFarland reminds commission of due date being June 22.
- Tubekis' motion was denied with three no's, because of the idea of un-allocated funding.
- Turnbull requested returning to original motion from Ford, which required using application of support from grantee, which would be decided by executive committee.
- Rosales second the motion. I's have it. Motion carried.

Conversation was had about commissioners receiving documents ahead of time. It was also suggested to add a key to help differentiate the programs.

Turnbull requests moving on to strategic plan voting.

- McFarland adds that 99% of the document is completed. Adding youth and volunteerism.
  - Ford suggests to extend youth to age 24, suggestion was approved.
- Tubekis moves to approve strategic plan. Ford seconds motion. I's have it, strategic plan approved.

Ford had to exit meeting from phone.

Discussion was had about sending thoughts and reviewing strategic plan annually, and having commission staff report on progress of committees.

### **Staff Reports – Scott McFarland**

AmeriCorps

- Currently no monitoring being scheduled, because of new programming and it being summer time. Mike will begin scheduling in August. Hopefully there will be a new program officer joining the staff to assist Mike soon.

Illinois Disaster Corps

- Report given earlier.
- Silberman expressed concern about just having FEMA trainings.
- McFarland ensured all that IEMA trainings were heavily involved in Disaster Corps training.

Volunteerism

- Central Illinois Volunteerism Conference (CIVC) set for June 7.
- Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (ICOVA) set for August 16, registration opening soon.
- North West IL Volunteerism Conference (NWIVC) up in the air if there will be a conference due to funding of RSVP program that helped run it. Michelle is working with committee on options.

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- Volunteer of the week information in packet, always looking for volunteers and non-profits to highlight.
- Veterans Day of Service still a joint effort with the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA). Will be a weeklong event the week of Veterans Day. Possible launch in July by DVA.

#### Governor's Hometown Awards (GHTA)

- FAQ and application included in Commissioners packet. Plan to launch day after commission meeting on Serve Illinois website. Informed commissioners that IML has been assisting with outreach.
- Hanneken states she has been reviewing and utilizing feedback from community people previously involved in GHTA.
- Discussion was had on when GHTA would be held.
- Hanneken stated she was waiting on General Assembly, to try and coordinate with their schedule. She included the apps would be open for two months, and that changes were being made to cut costs.
- Commissioners shared their thoughts on changes to application. Chavkin suggested adding the due date. Marton pointed out that the application lacked the Serve Illinois Logo, and suggested adding it as well as verbiage about Serve Illinois.
- McFarland reiterated that there is a lot of interest in this event coming back, and ensured branding will be fixed on the application.

Chair Turnbull opens the floor for further business.

- Marton informs commission that Serve Illinois officially has a foundation.
- Unable to vote on minutes from previous meeting due to lack of quorum.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 by chair Turnbull**

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